distribution of kerosene within the State is the responsibility of State Government. The monthly allocation of kerosene to the State of Kerala is 25816 M.T.

Requests are received for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. Kerosene is a deficit product in the country, and on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy, the distribution has to be judicious.

Seeking permission by Private Refiners to start their own Sale Outlets

3008. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private refiners submitted proposals seeking permission to start their own sale outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they would start petrol pumps in backward areas;

(d) whether Government would deregulate petroleum products before the announced schedule; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Government have permitted marketing of decontrolled products through private and joint sector. Marketing of kerosene and LPG is permitted through private and joint sector under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS).

The petroleum products under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) are marketed by public sector oil marketing companies only. These products are Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, LPG(Domestic), SKO (PDS), Aviation Turbine Fuel.

Proposal for Direct Marketing right of the Petroleum Products

3009. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme of deregulation of petroleum products before 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private refiners submitted any proposal of direct marketing right to their petroleum product; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The Government in November, 1997 decided to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism in a phased manner. As per this, the petroleum sector is scheduled for full deregulation from the year 2002 onwards. Representations have been received for allowing marketing of petroleum products. No decision has been taken as yet.

Pending Cases for Allotment of Dealerships of LPG, Petrol etc. in Andhra Pradesh

3010. Dr. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to allotment of retail and wholesale dealership of LPG, petrol, kerosene and diesel pending in Andhra Pradesh, category-wise; and

(b) by when the cases will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) At present, 156 retail outlet dealerships, 197 LPG distributorships and 3 SKO-LDO dealerships are pending in the State of Andhra Praesh for selection through interviews by the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs).

Four new DSBs have been set up for Andhra Pradesh for early selection of dealers/distributors. Selection is made in a phased manner, and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact time frame for completion of selection for the pending locations.

Pending Cases for Allotment of Retail and Wholesale Dealership of Kerosene, LPG, etc. In Tamil Nadu

3011. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for allotment of retail and wholesale dealership of kerosene, petrol and LPG in Tamil Nadu as on 1st August, 2000;